

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A coupling apparatus for data buses, comprising:
  - a first connecting device for a first data bus;
  - a second connecting device for a second data bus, as additional to the first connecting device;
  - a data processing device, connected to the first and the second connecting device to allow data to be interchanged between the data buses; and
  - a third connecting device, connected to the data processing device, for a third data bus, as additional to the first and second data buses, to allow data to be interchanged between the three data buses, wherein  
  
the second data bus is a different type of bus system than the first data bus, and  
the third data bus is a different type of bus system than the first data bus and the second data bus.
2. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling apparatus is configurable.
3. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the coupling apparatus is configurable in such a way that the data transfer between at least two of the data buses is controllable as a function of the semantics of the data to be transmitted.
4. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first data bus is a Profibus.

5. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second data bus is an AS-i bus.
6. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of input and output modules are connectable to the third data bus and are linkable to at least one of the first and the second data bus with the aid of the coupling apparatus.
7. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including a monitor with a configuration capability.
8. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first data bus is a Profibus.
9. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the second data bus is an AS-i bus.
10. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the first data bus is a Profibus.
11. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the second data bus is an AS-i bus.
12. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the second

data bus is an AS-i bus.

13. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein input/output modules are connectable to the third data bus and are linkable to at least one of the first and the second data bus with the aid of the coupling apparatus.
14. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including a monitor with a configuration capability.

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END OF CLAIM LISTING